MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The answers are in the affirmative.

Secretaries and Superintendents of the Secretariat.

55 MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is anyone belonging to the Ezhava, Mahomedan and Roman Catholic communities among the Secretaries and the Superintendents in the Secretariat?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We will now resume the general discussion on the Budget.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, at the very outset, I must congratulate the Financial Secretary for placing the preliminary edition of the Budget before us sufficiently early for the first time in the annals of the reformed Council. It indicates, if at all it does anything, that the Government are anxious to place before the non-officials all facts and figures sufficiently early and that they have begun to realise the most important fact that it is public criticism and public criticism alone that lubricates the administrative machinery much more than the financial position. It indeed augurs very well.

Sir, members who spoke yesterday dwelt on the constitution of this Council, the lack of any financial policy in the preparation of the Budget, and so on. I shall therefore take this opportunity of making a few observations on the Budget for the next year now placed before us.

I am afraid, Sir, I cannot share the bold optimism of the learned Financial Secretary in the matter of anticipating revenues. It looks as though his prime desire was to convert a deficit Budget into a surplus one. I for one do not see why he should be so much alarmed at a deficit Budget.

Let us take some of the progressive countries and prosperous nations. They have carried on their Government with deficit Budgets. It does not therefore follow that a deficit Budget means bad Government.

Now, in the Budget before us, taking the figures under revised estimates for the current year as the actuals for this year and considering the impoverished condition of the agriculturist and the fall in his purchasing power, I doubt whether the excess revenue, anticipated by the Financial Secretary under current revenue and old arrears for the next year, would be realised. The evidence tendered before the Banking Enquiry Committee in the various centres in Travancore and the prevalent very low prices of our agricultural products such as paddy, cocoanuts, pepper, rubber, tea etc., go to affirm the fact that the condition of the agriculturist at this moment is very precarious. If the

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